

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
COMMON COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Rensselaer met on November 13, 2017 in regular session in Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Stephen Wood called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by invocation offered by Rev. Jeff Cover of the First Presbyterian Church and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Answering roll call were: Mayor Stephen Wood; Clerk-Treasurer Frieda Bretzinger; Council Members Bill Hollerman, Rick Odle; George Cover, Ernest Watson, Jr; City Attorney Mike Riley; Cemetery Supt. Kevin Cochran; Park Supt. Joe Effinger; Building Commissioner Kenny Haun; Fire Chief Bob Graves; Police Chief Jeff Phillips; Utility Office Manager Heather Smart; Electric Manager of Operations Steve Miller; Electric Lead Line Foreman Lenny Larson; Street Supt. Andy Daniels; Project Coordinator Jerry Lockridge; Nick Fiala with the Rensselaer Republican. Council Member Scott Barton, Gas Supt. Carol Lockridge and Plant Supt. Claude Grow were absent.

Also in attendance were: Robert Schenk with Rensselaer Adventures; Andrew Robarge with Commonwealth Engineers; Rev. Jeff Cover of the First Presbyterian Church; Shawn Cain with KIRPC; Ben Wanner with Best Equipment; Kyle Williams with Brown Equipment; Kevin and Valerie Madison with KDM Service.

The minutes of the October 23, 2017 council meeting were presented. There was a motion by Hollerman, and second by Odle, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Citizen Comments and Presentation of Petitions: There were none.

Ordinance 18-2017, Retention of Issued Duty Weapon: Phillips requested that all retiring police officers that are retiring and meet certain requirements be able to keep their duty weapons. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve Ordinance 18-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Ordinance 19-2017, Amendment to Salary Ordinance 17-2017: Bretzinger said that during our recent audit it was brought to her attention that each elected official's salary paid from a utility should be paid by all utilities. This ordinance is to correct that. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the ordinance. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Resolution 29-2017, Gas Tracker: Wood said this tracker reflects a \$.0131 decrease per 100 cubic feet. There was a motion by Cover, second by Hollerman, to approve the resolution. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Resolution 30-2017, Transfer of Funds. Bretzinger presented Resolution 30-2017, a transfer of funds resolution. The transfers are \$16,200.00 within General Fund, \$4,000.00 in MVH, and \$12,000.00 in EDIT. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to approve Resolution 30-2017 as presented. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

INDOT Sub District Property on Maple Street: Wood said he received details on the old INDOT property. Because of state statute INDOT must receive fair market value of the property; that being \$6,400.00 and the only way it could be waived is by governor approval. Once the property is transferred the city would assume liability of the property.

2017 Street Program: Lockridge said the street committee met and they are recommending Walsh and Kelly as contractors for \$862,196.23. This was the contractor also recommended by our engineering firm. Since they were not the lowest bidder, the committee felt that they supplied all of the state requirements for the program and this was the best fit and the quality of work from last year's program was excellent. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the committee's recommendation. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Street Sweeper Award: Lockridge said the committee met and are recommending the street sweeper be purchased from Brown Equipment for \$195,000.00. The two low bids did not meet the specifications. There was a motion by Cover, second by Watson, to approve the recommendation. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Well #8 Bid Opening: Riley and Lockridge opened the bids and they are as follows:

Grimmer Construction \$1,438,733.60

KDM Services \$1,252,967.50

LGS Plumbing \$1,016,363.00

Atlas Excavating \$1,337,283.00

The bids will be taken under advisement. The engineer will review them and make a recommendation.

Well #8 Contract for Resident inspector: Lockridge said this contract is for \$72,000.00 for an on-site inspector for the project. This was already passed by the Board of Works. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Cover, to approve the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

Aerial Tower Purchase: Miller said it was discussed about the need for a new 60' bucket truck to replace a 60' bucket truck purchased in 2004. He solicited quotes from two vendors used in the past. Quotes are:

Altec \$213,771.00

Versalift \$229,172.00

He and the line department personnel suggested purchasing the Altec. Cover said Miller mentioned something about selling the trucks outright. Miller said he has two tree trimming companies and the company putting in the Watt Substation that would be interested in the 2004 bucket truck. These individuals along with the dealership would like to look at the vehicle closer to the trade-in time to see what they would offer. Bretzinger asked about auctioning it off and Miller said Frankfort didn't do that in the past, they did sealed bids (an auction). Bretzinger also verified that Miller will be holding on to the quotes and will be able to produce them for auditors. Odle asked about financing and Miller said this unit is a year out and the company that was here earlier wants to wait for a firm price. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to purchase the Altec truck for \$213,771.00. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

2018 City Supply Bid Request: Bretzinger and Riley opened the city bids for 2018. They are as follows:

	Ceres Solution	Superior Petroleum
Item #1 Unleaded Gasoline	20,000 gal-\$2.0632 gal	20,000 gal-rack plus \$.29
Item #2 Diesel Fuel	9,000 gal-\$2.2325 gal	9,000 gal-rack plus \$.29
Premium Diesel	9,000 gal-\$2.2775 gal	
		Wonderland
Item #3 Tires and Tubes		
1. Trucks over 1 ton rating: Dismount from truck and install new tire.		\$29.25
2. Trucks over 1 ton rating: Dismount from truck and repair basic failure.		\$43.50
3. Trucks over 1 ton rating: Repair of basic failure when delivered to shop dismount (off truck, still on rim)		\$29.25
4. Trucks ¾ and 1 ton rating: Dismount from truck and install new tire.		\$25.00
5. Trucks ¾ and 1 ton rating: Dismount from truck and repair basic failure.		\$25.65
6. Trucks ¾ and 1 ton rating: Repair of basic failure when delivered to shop dismounted		\$18.70
7. Squad cars using speed rated tires: Dismount and repair basic failure by patching from the inside)		\$19.50
8. Pickups and passenger cars using passenger type tires: Dismount and install new tire.		\$15.00
9. Pickups and passenger cars using passenger type tires: Dismount and repair basic failure.		\$19.50
10. Pickups and passenger cars using passenger type tires: Repair of basic failure When dismounted and delivered to repair shop.		\$14.00
11. Per hour charge for repairs where applicable for tractors and heavy equipment		\$85.00

Lockridge and Odle were appointed to a committee to review the bids and come back with a recommendation.

Permission to Trade in Mower: Cochran asked to trade in a lawn mower. He's staying with the Grasshopper. Odle said he thought Cochran was going to look in to a John Deere but Cochran looked at them and said with their square bodies they'd be bumping in to things. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to give Cochran permission to get a new mower and trade in a mower. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Cemetery Deed Requests: Bretzinger presented cemetery deed requests for Marsha Walker, Janalu McKay and Gina Giramonti. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Odle, to approve the requests. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

2017 Christmas Schedule: Wood said this year the Christmas schedule will not fall under the normal schedule of the Policies and Procedures as Christmas Eve will fall on Sunday and Christmas Day is Monday. Therefore, it is council's decision as to what days will be observed for the holiday. Wood asked if we will be giving the Friday before the holiday or give the following Tuesday off. Odle said the trash route schedule was already put out last year for this year showing Tuesday as the observed holiday so employees have already made plans for having Tuesday off. Bretzinger said she sent out an e-mail to the mayor and council regarding this and requested the prior Friday off to give her office an extra day for payroll and to get checks out to hopefully not have as many outstanding checks for year end. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to give Tuesday off. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent. There was a motion by Watson, second by Odle to hold the second council meeting in December to Wednesday, Dec 27th. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

American Legion Post #29 Thanksgiving Dinner: The American Legion is asking for a monetary donation. Wood proposes \$250.00 from the Public Relations Fund. There was a motion by Hollerman, second by Watson, to donate to the dinner. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent.

Public Relations Fund Request: Wood asked for up to \$100.00 from the Public Relations Fund to send flowers for the loss of an employee's father. There was a motion by Odle, second by Watson, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Administrative Comments:

Barton was absent.

Bretzinger said State Board of Accounts audit is tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. All council members are invited.

Cover had nothing.

Hollerman said Veteran's Day was nice.

Odle had nothing.

Watson had nothing.

Wood had nothing.

Claims Approval: The claims were presented for payment. There was a motion by Odle, second by Hollerman, to approve the claims. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendents Reports:

Building Dept.: Haun had nothing.

Cemetery Dept.: Cochran had nothing.

Electric Dept.: Miller thanked council for the truck. Larson thanked council for the truck. Grow had nothing.

Fire Dept.: Graves had nothing.

Gas Dept.: Lockridge absent.

Legal Dept.: Riley said the last council meeting he proposed joining the opioid litigation. He said he had been in touch with the attorneys and said it wouldn't cost the city anything if they were unsuccessful. He now has the fee contract and it has in it what he told council except for if there's no recovery there's no fee. However, if there's a remedy on paying consisting of or including non-monetary relief the city agrees to pay a percentage. He called the lawyer handling the case and told him he already told the city it wouldn't cost anything. He said it won't cost anything unless the case was settled and an opiate recovery room for the City of Rensselaer or something like that for the city's benefit. Then they would have to determine what that was worth and the value decided through rules of the American Arbitration Association. He contacted other entities and the City of Indianapolis has approved it and he believed the Jasper County Commissioners approved it. He wanted council to know there was that addition. Bretzinger said Kendell Culp talked to her immediately after Riley presented it to council and he told her the commissioners had not approved it. Riley said he was told by the lawyer that the commissioners approved it. Fiala said representatives presented this to the commissioners but they never voted on it. Riley suggested doing it. He thinks it will be a cash settlement especially for small cities like Rensselaer. He said they aren't going to build an opiate treatment center here. Odle said if it's not going to cost anything he thinks we should continue.


Park Dept.: Effinger had nothing.

Police Dept.: Phillips thanked council for approval of Ordinance 18-2017.

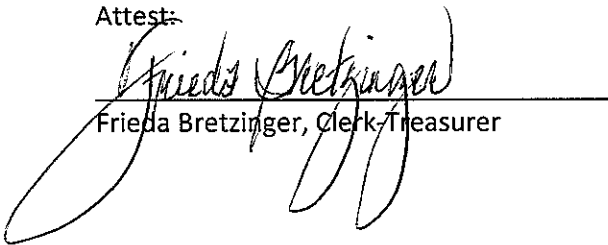
Street, Sanitation, Sewage and Water Dept.: Daniels said the bridge will be ready Friday and possibly Thursday. We receive grant money for new recycling trailer so he will be looking in to that. There was a motion by Cover, second by Odle, to look into a recycling trailer. The motion passed by majority, with Barton absent. Lockridge thanked council for the sweeper and street program.

Utility Office: Smart said we're having trouble with our folder stuffer machine which is about four years old but having trouble with it. She would like a committee established to research either purchasing a new machine, outsourcings, or going back to a post card. A committee of Watson, Odle, and Smart asked that Miller also be on the committee.

There being nothing more to come before council, there was a motion by Watson, second by Odle, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.


Stephen A. Wood, Mayor

Attest:


Frieda Bretzinger, Clerk-Treasurer